

 r/HFY · Posted by u/dragonson04 4 hours ago

## Humans are masters of one thing

OC OC

Humans. That curious race of people from a deathworld. The Galaxy at large had been observing them for centuries before first contact was made, as they seemed to be an incomprehensible paradox. Everything they did, they didn't do. Everything they loved, they despised. Everything they fought for, they fought against. And so on.

One of the few constants throughout their history was their various art forms.

Painting is among their oldest art. With naturally sourced dyes on the walls of caves, showing basic pictures of daily life, the primitive ancestors of humans told their stories. They still use physical mediums to make their paintings, even after joining the larger Galactic community.

Sculpture was likely the next to evolve, as they developed tools that could cut and carve stone.

Now, this is nothing new. Most sapient races followed a similar path when it came to the evolution of art, but most found their strength and stuck with it thousands of years ago to the exclusion of all other forms of art. You'd never see a sculpture by any avian race, and you'd never hear a poem by a reptilian or amphibian race for example.

With humans though...they appreciate all forms of art, and still make all forms of art.

Their "Classical Age" of sculpture, for example, was a point of contention among the Galaxy, as much of it showed totally nude humans. Quite scandalous to the rest of us, but to humans, their own bodies are still a fascinating and beautiful thing. I personally feel that sort of innocence is sorely missed in the Galaxy. Form and proportion seemed to be the key points of those works of stone.

But, I digress.

While humans have all forms of art, the one they are masters of is the one I have yet to mention.

Music. From the most primitive rhythms stomped out with feet or clapped out with hands, drummed on hollowed and dead plants with hands or smaller pieces of the same plants, or on stretched and tanned animal hides stretched over similar dead plants, in various shapes and forms.

Their oldest form of music might well be their own voices. Singing praises to whatever they worshipped, singing for *happiness*, singing for *sadness*, singing because they have nothing better to do around a communal fire after a hunt.

Music is part of being human.

My people, the Yis'Oh, being telepathic and empathetic, can feel the effects of any form of art on an emotional level in any sapient race. I had the opportunity to travel to the human home world, and experience the emotions their music brought out in themselves. I can honestly say, I will never be the same again. After signing all the "paperwork" as humans called it, and getting an appropriate envirosuit for my species, I walked on the Earth for the first time and immediately set out.

My first experience with human music was a genre called "Metal". Although the beat of the music nearly destroyed my auditory sensors, the wave of...Well, I can't exactly call it *anger* it was more of a sense of *power* mixed with *solidarity* and *joy*, was truly overwhelming. I felt ready to start a war by myself after a single song.

After I recovered from Metal, I tried their Jazz. And that nearly broke me. When a Yis'Oh "breaks" they are no longer capable of feeling anything other than the last emotion that "broke" them. The musician on his "Saksofone" was practically bleeding *remorse*, *regret* and *loss* into every single note. Those were mirrored in every single member of the audience of that small room. Luckily, I managed to hold on to my sanity, but just barely. It took quite a long time in an isolation tank to recover from that one.

But, by far, my favorite human music was their "Classical".

Centuries old, and still played regularly by live musicians on actual physical instruments. To say nothing of the countless times *all* of it has been recorded.

"And, music...finished as no music is ever finished. Displace one note, and there would be diminishment. Displace one phrase, and the structure would fall."\* to quote one of their other forms of art talking about this genre of music. I agree with that quote, and, in my opinion, the piece that embodies this the best is the "1919 Firebird Suite" by Igor Stravinsky\*\*

I requested a smaller sample size for this one, for fear of being overwhelmed again by even a small group, and a single human volunteered to sit and listen with me. Such a magnificent array of emotions were brought out. Everything from *hope* to *uncertainty* to *power* to *hate* to *utter loss* to *triumphant victory*(I honestly didn't know that was an emotion until this). And others that...I honestly can't put a name on.

Humans have the reputation of being the "Jack of all trades" type. They can do anything with acceptable results, and a few things with great outcomes. But, when it comes to Music, I personally recognize them as the only true masters in the Galaxy.

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\*Antonio Salieri, played by F. Murray Abraham in "Amadeus" released in 1984

**\*\*1919 Firebird Suite. Performed by Chicago Symphony Orchestra for Disney's "Fantasia 2000"**